

*Harmful
Interference*

FINAL ACTS
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION
AND
RADIO CONFERENCES

1947

Chapter IX, Article 21. Secrecy. The administrations bind themselves to take the necessary measures to prohibit and prevent:

- a) the unauthorized interception of radiocommunications not intended for the general use of the public;
- b) the divulgence of the contents, simple disclosure of the existence, publication or any use whatever, without authorization, of information of any nature whatever obtained by the interception of the radiocommunications mentioned in a). 11 May 1955.

Chapter IV, Articles 28 and 29 especially imply the necessity that there be a communication probably of a mutual nature, that is, radio broadcasts such as those jammed by the Soviet Union may not be embraced within the Convention.

Chapter IV, Article 32 binds members to insure the secrecy of international correspondence but reserves their right to communicate such correspondence to competent authority in order to insure the application of internal law, etc. By implication, this authorizes interception.

Article 40 of Chapter IV entitled Special Arrangements authorizes subordinate treaties but provides "such arrangements, however, shall not be in conflict with the terms of this Convention or of the Regulations annexed thereto, sofar as concerns the harmful interference which their operation might be likely to cause to the radio services of other countries."

Article 44 of Chapter V is even more specific in prohibiting harmful interference with "radio services or communications."

Article 47 of Chapter V even precludes such harmful interference by military radio installations. In Annex 2 at Page 54-E there appears the following definition: "Broadcasting Service: A radiocommunications service of transmissions to be received directly by the general public." On the same page, Telecommunication is defined as: "Any transmission, emission or reception of signs, signals, writing, images and sounds or intelligence of any nature by wire, radio, visual or other electromagnetic systems".

At Page 55-E, Radiocommunication is defined as: Any telecommunication by means of Hertzian waves. " Hertzian waves are defined as: Electromagnetic waves of frequencies between 10 kc/s and 3,000,000 Mc/s.

At Page 56-E, Harmful Interference is defined as: "Any radiation or any induction which endangers the functioning of a radionavigation service or of a safety service, or obstructs or repeatedly interrupts a radio service operating in accordance with the Radio Regulations. " The Convention authorizes five sets of Regulations: The General Regulations contained in Annex 4 and four sets of Administrative Regulations. The four sets of Administrative Regulations are: Telegraph Regulations, Telephone Regulations, Radio Regulations, and Additional Radio Regulations. The United States did not adhere to the Telegraph Regulations, the Telephone Regulations, or the Additional Radio Regulations. The USSR accepted all the Regulations but objected to Section 2 of Article I defining the term "A Member of the Union". Their objection was that the Baltic states had not been permitted to join. Oh yes, and Mongolia, too.

On Page 98-E, there is a provision that Germany and Japan may subsequently accede to the Convention.

The Radio Regulations, page 16-E, concern the Assignment of Frequencies so as to avoid harmful interference.

At Page 59-E, the use of Class B Emissions is forbidden in all stations. Class B Emissions are defined at Page 11-E as damped waves. At Page 72-E is a provision: "In order to obtain international recognition of a frequency assignment, each country ... shall notify the Board. " Have we done this in the case of those stations beamed behind the Iron Curtain?

At Page 83-E commences Chapter V on Interference and Measures Against Interference.

At Page 91-E, Chapter VII, provides: "All stations ... capable of causing harmful interference beyond the boundaries of the country to which they belong, must have call signs, etc. "

Article 21 of the Regulations pertaining to Secrecy has been quoted above.